

REMARKS

1. Claim 52 is amended as required by the Examiner.
2. Claims 13, 15-20, 25, 27, 32, 37, 38, 40, 41, 45, 46, 48, 49, 51-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Matsuyama (JP 61254437 A). Claims 28-31, 33-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Matsuyama in view of Casarotti et al.

In rejecting Applicants' patentability arguments made in the Amendment dated July 28, 2004, the Examiner states (see Office Action page 4):

Applicant states that Matsuyama does not teach or suggest that the surface 11 rotates relative to the top portion of the chuck. Two reasons exist which point to the fact that member 11 rotates relative to Matsuyama's body. On page 4 of the English translation ..., in line 15, it is described ... that "(F)urthermore, the wafer can be rotated". Since the wafer is firmly chucked to member 11, it would appear that the only way in which the wafer could be rotated would be through the agency of rotating member 11 relative to the body of Matsuyama...

This is respectfully traversed. The wafer could be rotated through the agency of rotating the whole body without rotating the member 11 relative to the body.

The Examiner continues:

Secondly, the existence of a circumferential guide (depicted most clearly in Fig. 2 of Matsuyama) around the periphery of Matsuyama's member 11 (which guide has a tapered cross-section corresponding to the sloped shape of the bottom of Matsuyama's body) would indicate that member 11 rotates relative to the body, thus necessitating the provision of such a guide.

Matsuyama's tapered cross section is a wall of an orifice 13. Fig. 1(b) shows multiple orifices 13 in plan view. Each orifice 13 (Fig. 2) is a passage between the member 11 and the top portion of the chuck. In Fig. 1(b), orifices 13 are spaced from each other. Between the orifices, member 11 could be rigidly connected to the top portion of the chuck, thus preventing a rotation of member 11 relative to the top portion. Whether or not such rigid connection exists, Matsuyama does not teach or suggest that the member 11 could rotate relative to the top portion.

See also the enclosed Declaration of Sam Kao under 37 CFR 1.132, paragraphs 2-4, providing additional explanation of Matsuyama. The Declaration was not earlier presented because the Declaration responds to the Examiner's characterization of Matsuyama first presented in the last Office Action (on page 4).

Any questions regarding this case can be addressed to the undersigned at the telephone number below.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 16, 2004.

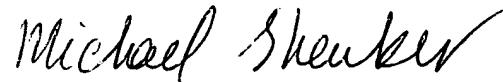
 12-16-04

Michael Shenker Date of Signature

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Respectfully submitted,



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